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SUBJECT New SED Central Committee

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1. The new Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party (SED) was elected on the last days of the Fourth Party Conference (30 Mar to 6 Apr 54 in Berlin). The new committee has 91 full members and 44 alternates (Kandidaten) as compared with 51 full members and 30 alternates of the old committee as constituted at the Third Party Conference in July 1950.

2. The following points of view are noticeable in makeup of the new committee:

   a. The entire top leadership of the military and regular Volkspolizei has been taken into the Central Committee. In this the SED follows the pattern of the Soviet Union.

   b. Various functionaries known for their radical political position and their loyalty to Walter Ulbricht have been newly elected to the committee (for example, Hilde Benjamin, Ernst Wollweber, Alfred Neumann). Future opposition to Ulbricht such as was possible through the faction-making of the Zaisser-Herrnstadt group has been made difficult, . This motive explains the introduction of a row of entirely colorless and politically unknown "activists", "collective farmers" and "heroes of labor" as well as a few representatives of the "progressive intellectuals" (for example, Adolf Hennecke, Karl Krüger, Walter Schröder, Dr. Kurt Liebknecht). This, together with the election of several industrial officials (for example, Wolfgang Fabian) will finally demonstrate the "unity with the masses."

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c. The number of Central Committee members occupied in the government apparatus has not been increased significantly in proportion to the general enlargement of the committee. That probably is intended as a safeguard for purges in the apparatus of government by which, under the given arrangement, SED functionaries are not concerned and hence not disavowed.

3. The composition of both the old and the new Central Committee, together with the personal political connections of the members, are shown in the list which follows, arranged alphabetically:

Old Committee	New Committee	Present Position
Anton Ackermann		Chief of the DEFA Film in the Ministry of Education (Kultur)
-	1. Prof. Dr. Robert Alt	President, Society for Cultural Contacts Abroad
Hermann Axen	2. Hermann Axen	2nd Secretary, Berlin District SED.
-	3. Kurt Barthel ("Kuba")	Party lyric poet
Gerda Bauer		Reduced to rank of alternate
Edith Baumann	4. Edith Baumann	Member of Berlin Dist. SED Secretariat
-	5. Hugo Baumgart	Unknown
Johannes R. Becher	6. Johannes R. Becher	Minister of Education (Kultur)
-	7. Hilde Benjamin	Minister of Justice
Hertha Bergmann		Unknown
Werner Bruschke		Halle district chairman
-	8. Albert Blassies	Unknown
-	9. Fritz Böhnisch	Unknown
-	10. Edith Brandt	Secretary for agitation-propaganda of the FDJ Central Council
-	11. Willi Bredel	Party lyric poet
-	12. Richard Brust	Unknown
-	13. Walter Buchheim	1st Secretary, Chemnitz Dist. SED.

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Old Committee	New Committee	Present Position
Otto Buchwitz	14. Otto Buchwitz	President of the BKK
Franz Dahlem		Expelled from Central Committee May 1953.
Friedrich Ebert	15. Friedrich Ebert	Berlin City Soviet
-	16. Friedrich Engelmann	Unknown
-	17. Luise Ermisch	Member of the Volkskammer and the National Council of the NF
-	18. Kurt Eydam	Unknown
-	19. Wolfgang Fabian	Director, Karl Marx Works, Magdeburg
Max Fechner	-	Expelled from SED and arrested July 1953
Margot Feist	20. Margot Feist	1st Secretary, Brandenburg Dist. SED
Lene Fischer	-	Expelled from SED, May 1953
-	21. Walter Fischer	Unknown
-	22. Eduard Götzl	Unknown
-	23. Ernst Grossman	Unknown
Otto Grotewohl	24. Otto Grotewohl	Prime Minister
-	25. Bernhard Grünert	Member of the VdgB Central Directorate
	26. Kurt Hager	Member Central Committee Secretariat; chief of scientific and university section
-	27. Hans Joachim Hartwig	Unknown
-	28. Kurt Helbig	Secretary of the Federal council of the FDGB
-	29. Adolf Hennecke	Activist and 'national price fixer'
Rudolf Herrnstadt	-	Expelled from Central Committee, July 1953, and later from the SED
Ernst Hoffmann	-	Unknown
-	30. Heinz Hoffmann	Lt. General of the KVP and Deputy Minister of the Interior

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Old Committee	New Committee	Present Position
Gerda Holzmacher	31. Gerda Holzmacher	Unknown
Erich Honecker	32. Erich Honecker	1st President of the FDJ
Hans Jendretzky	-	Chairman, Neubrandenburg dist. council
-	33. Johannes Jentsch	Unknown
-	34. Walter Kastner	Unknown
Kate Kern	35. Kate Kern	Chief of the Mother and Child Section in the Ministry of Health
Heinz Kessler	36. Heinz Kessler	Major-General of the Air Volkspolizei
-	37. Hans Kiefert	1st Secretary of the Erfurt Dist. SED
Bernhard Koenen	38. Bernhard Koenen	Ambassador at Prague
Wilhelm Koenen	39. Wilhelm Koenen	Head of the joint office of the Upper and Lower Chambers (Parliament)
-	40. Walter Knoll	Unknown
-	41. Erwin Kramer	Deputy Minister of Railways
-	42. Karl Kruger	"Hero of Labor"
-	43. Willy Kuhn	Secretary of the FDGB Federation Board
Hans Lauter	-	Lecturer at the University of Leipzig
Helmut Lehmann	44. Helmut Lehmann	Social Security chairman and member of the Lower House (Volkskammer)
-	45. Otto Lehmann	Secretary for Labor and Social policy of the FDGB board
Bruno Leuschner	46. Bruno Leuschner	Chairman of the National Planning Commission
Friedrich Leutwein	-	Professor at the Freiburg Mining Institute
Ernst Lohagen	-	Expelled from Central Committee February 1952; head of the Potsdam Dist. auditing dept.

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Old Committee	New Committee	Present Position
-	47. Dr. Kurt Liebknecht	President of the School of Architecture
-	48. Karl Maron	Chief of HVDVP (Volkspolizei GHQ)
Hermann Matern	49. Hermann Matern	Chairman of the ZPKK
-	50. Frido Meinhardt	Unknown
Karl Mewis (since 1952)	51. Karl Mewis	1st Secretary, Rostock Dist. SED
Erich Mielke	52. Erich Mielke	Deputy State Secretary for Security
Karl Moltmann	53. Karl Moltmann	Unknown
Erich Muckenberger	54. Erich Muckenberger	Secretary of the Central Committee (Agriculture)
-	55. Prof. Dr. Robert Naumann	Prorector of Social Science, Univ. of Berlin
-	56. Werner Neugebauer	Secretary for Culture & Education of the Chemnitz Dist. SED Secretariat.
-	57. Alfred Neumann	1st Secretary of the Greater Berlin Dist. SED
Fred Oelssner	58. Fred Oelssner	Secretary of the Central Committee (Afitation and Propaganda)
Wilhelm Pieck	59. Wilhelm Pieck	President of the German Democratic Republic
Alois Pisnick	60. Alois Pisnick	1st Secretary, Magdeburg Dist. SED
Heinrich Rau	61. Heinrich Rau	Minister for Machine Construction and Deputy Prime Minister
-	62. Hans Rodenberg	DEFA director and movie stage manager
Willy Sägebrecht	63. Willy Sägebrecht	1st Deputy of the National Planning Commission Directorate
-	64. Kurt Seibt	1st Secretary, Potsdam Dist. SED
-	65. Fritz Seifert	Unknown
-	66. Fritz Selbmann	Minister for Heavy Industry

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Old Committee	New Committee	Present Position
Karl Schirdewan (since 1953)	67. Karl Schirdewan	Secretary of the Central Committee (cadre chief - LOPM)
Hermann Schlimme	68. Hermann Schlimme	2nd Chairman of the Greater Berlin FDGB
Elli Schmidt	-	Head of the Fashion Institute (Bekleidungskultur)
Otto Schön	69. Otto Schön	Unknown
-	70. Christian Schröder	Unknown
-	71. Walter Schröder	Member Neubrandenburg Dist. council; "Hero of Labor"
-	72. Erich Schuppe	Unknown
Karl Steinhoff	-	Unknown (former Minister of Interior)
-	73. Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Steinitz	Professor at Univ. of Berlin
Willi Stoph	74. Willi Stoph	Minister of the Interior
-	75. Ilse Thiele	Chairwoman, Democratic Women's Organization (DFD)
Walter Ulbricht	76. Walter Ulbricht	1st Secretary of the Central Committee
Paul Verner	77. Paul Verner	Unknown (former head of the Org. instruction section of the Central Committee)
Kurt Vieweg	-	Director of the Institute for Agrarian Economy in the Agricultural Academy, Berlin
Paul Wandel	78. Paul Wandel	Secretary of the Central Committee (Education)
Hans Warnke	79. Hans Warnke	Rostock district chairman
Herbert Warnke	80. Herbert Warnke	Chairman of the FDGB (Free German Labor Union)
-	81. Fritz Weber	Member of the Leipzig Council and activist
-	82. Friedrich Wehner	1st Chairman of the VdgB (BHG)

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Old Committee	New Committee	Present Position
-	83. Dr. Alfred Wende	Reviewer for mathematics & natural science at the Academy of Science
-	84. Josef Wenig	Member of the Wismut SED dist. directorate
-	85. Karl Wienecke	Unknown
Otto Winzer	86. Otto Winzer	State Secretary in the Pieck private chancellery
Erich Wirth (since 1952)	87. Erich Wirth	Activist; vice president of the Society for German-Soviet Friendship.
-	88. Dr. Margarete Wittkowski	Chairwoman, Consumers' Cooperative (Konsumgenossenschaft)
-	89. Ernst Wollweber	State Secretary for Security and Deputy Minister of Interior
Wilhelm Zaisser	-	Expelled from Central Committee, July 1953, and later from the SED
-	90. Kurt Zierold	Unknown
Gerhard Ziller (since 1953)	91. Gerhard Ziller	Secretary of Central Committee (Economy)
	Alternates (Kandidaten)	
-	1. Hans Albrecht	1st Secretary, Stalinstadt Dist. SED.
-	2. Paul Appenrodt	Unknown
-	3. Prof. Dr. Walter Arnold	Member of the Academy of Arts and the Council of the Museum of German History
Kurt Barthel	-	Elected to the Central Committee 1954
-	4. Gerda Bauer	Unknown (former Central Committee member)
-	5. Helene Berg	Head of the Institute for Social Training at the Karl Marx Party Academy
Walter Biering	6. Walter Biering	Member of the VdgB central board

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Old Committee	New Committee	Present Position
Erich Birnbaum	7. Erich Birnbaum	SED official at the Warnow Shipyard
" "	8. Max Burghardt	General manager of the Leipzig city theater
Kurt Böhme	-	Unknown
-	9. Prof. Edmund Collein	Vice president, National School of Architecture
-	10. Erich Diesner	Unknown
Adolf Deter	-	1st chairman of the FDGB, Berlin
Horst Dohlus	11. Horst Dohlus	2nd secretary, Wismut dist. Party organization
-	12. Helene Dunker	Member, Schwerin dist. government
-	13. Eva Erler	Unknown
Margot Feist	14. Margot Feist	Chairwoman the "Young Pioneers"
-	15. Werner Felfe	Secretary, FDJ central council
-	16. Peter Florin	Chief, International Relations Section in the Central Committee secretariat
-	17. Wilhelm Frickmann	Unknown
-	18. Karl Fritsche	Unknown
-	19. Paul Fröhlich	1st Secretary, Leipzig dist, SED
-	20. Gerhard Frost	1st Secretary, SED organization in Bunawerke Schkopau (rubber works)
Max Goetzl	-	Former SED secretary in the Max-Hütte, Unterwellenborn
Gertrud Grauer	21. Gertrud Grauer	Council chairwoman, Kreis Hoyerswerda
Kurt Hager	-	Elected to Central Committee, 1954
Helmut Hartwig	-	Unknown
Gerhard Heidenreich	22. Gerhard Heidenreich	Secretary, FDJ Central Council
Heinz Hoffmann	-	Elected to Central Committee, 1954
Rudolf Kirchner	23. Rudolf Kirchner	Secretary, FDGB Federation Board
-	24. Paul Kallas	Unknown
-	25. Anna Krause	Chief reviewer of the Slavonic and theological faculties in State Secretariat for University affairs.

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Old Committee	New Committee	Present Position
Adolf Kupke	26. Adolf Kupke	Member of VdgB central board
Walter Krebaum	-	Unknown
-	27. Ernst Lange	Chief, Commerce, Supply and Light Industry Section in Central Committee secretariat
Fritz Lange	28. Fritz Lange	Chairman, Central Commission for National Controls
Karl Litke	-	FDGB Board, Berlin
Karl Mewis	-	Elected to Central Committee, 1954
-	29. Ewald Möller	Unknown
Gerhard Neukrans	-	Unknown (formerly FDJ secretary at Halle)
-	30. Eberhard Nimz	1st secretary, Party organization in Stahlwerk Brandenburg
-	31. Anton Plenikowski	Chief, administrative section of the Central Committee secretariat
-	32. Johannes Quetscher	Unknown
-	33. Prof. Dr. Hermann Redetzky	Deputy Minister of Health
-	34. Dr. Erich Rübensam	Director, Institute of Soils and Plant Culture, in the Academy of Agriculture, Berlin
Willi Rumpf	35. Willi Rumpf	State Secretary in Ministry of Finance
-	36. Dr. Wolfgang Schirmer	Director, "Walter Ulbricht" Nitrogen Works (Leunawerke), Halle-Merseburg
Erich Ruths	-	Unknown
Helmut Scholz	37. Helmut Scholz	Activist
-	38. Max Sens	Member of the ZPKK
Kurt Seibt	-	Elected to Central Committee, 1954
Gretl Schuster	-	Unknown

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Old Committee	New Committee	Present Position
Wolfgang Steinke	39. Wolfgang Steinke	FDJ secretary
Otto Selbmann	-	Unknown
-	40. Frida Sternberg	Unknown
Paul Strop	-	Unknown
-	41. Richard Tauchert	Unknown
-	42. Hans-Joachim Uhlig	Unknown
Fritz Uschner	-	Expelled from SED, May 1953
-	43. Waldemar Verner	Major General of Volkspolizei (Seepolizei)
Erich Wirth	-	Elected to Central Committee, 1954
-	44. Hanna Wolf	Director of Karl-Marx Party Academy

4. The Soviet Zone national party will pursue the militant-combatant course of the new Central Committee. The inclusion of Wollweber, chief of the SSD, and the Volkspolizei top commanders, Hoffmann, Maron and Verner, is particularly significant. The elimination of the entire Zaisser-Herrnstadt group, including Franz Dahlem, Anton Ackermann and his wife, Elli Schmidt, and the former Minister of Justice Max Fechner, is another significant business. A few of them have been given probationary appointments. Franz Dahlem has been entrusted with the leadership of the West Section, which now will have special agitation and undermining missions to carry out in the Federal Republic. The Central Committee, the top Party agency, meets every two months. The Politburo will play the principal role, and Ulbricht's position of power is thereby newly reaffirmed.

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